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James (Charles) Major?
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THE
MEMORIAL
AND
CORRESPONDENCE
OF
CHARLES JAMES,
LATE CAPTAIN OF A COMPANY IN THE
NORTH YORK MILITIA;
CONTAINING
HIS EXPLANATION
OF THE
MOTIVES WHICH INDUCED HIM TO QUIT THE
SERVICE IN 1797.

Tros, Tyriusve mihi nullo discrimine agetur.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Sed hic Stylus haud petet ultro
Quemquam animantem, et me veluti custodiet ensis
Vaginâ tutus—

THE following Memorial and Correspondence are designed for the perusal of those friends only whose esteem I value, and am consequently solicitous to preserve. No one part of the contents is submitted to their consideration, from motives of pique, disgust, or jealousy.

I am anxious to account to the small, but respectable circle of persons who have honoured me with their acquaintance and friendship, for the seeming precipitancy of my determination in quitting the militia: and I am also desirous of shewing, that when the flame of the most critical Contest in which Great Britain has ever been engaged, was rekindled by the failure of our negotiations at Lisle, I was equally prompt in seeking for employment.

I have only to add, that should the Memorial and Correspondence exceed the limits of their proposed circulation, the fault will not be mine.

CHARLES JAMES:

November the 6th, 1798.
17, Woodstock Street, Bond Street



TO
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS FIELD MARSHAL

THE
DUKE OF YORK,

COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES,

&c. &c. &c.

THE HUMBLE MEMORIAL

*Of the undersigned CHARLES JAMES, late Captain of a Company in the
North York Militia,*

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH;

THAT your Memorialist having, to the best of his ability, uniformly endeavoured to answer the calls of his situation during the whole of the present War, until the late renewal of a Negotiation for Peace, and not being conscious of having deviated from his duty in the minutest point, begs leave to approach Your ROYAL HIGHNESS with sentiments of the purest Zeal and steadfast Loyalty for His MAJESTY'S Crown and Government.

That your Memorialist, regretting the recent circumstances which had so far operated upon his feelings as to have induced him to leave the North York Regiment at this critical juncture, has the presumption to hope, that his motive for submitting a brief statement of those circumstances will not be viewed by Your ROYAL HIGHNESS in an unfavourable light; being no other than a sincere and honest solicitude, that, however insignificant the situation of your Memorialist may be, the impression which shall result from his resignation, will correspond with the purity of his intentions, and demonstrate to Your ROYAL HIGHNESS, that not levity nor caprice, nor less defensible sentiments have influenced his determination.

That your memorialist begs leave to state to Your ROYAL HIGHNESS, with the greatest deference and respect, that the Second Majority in the North York Regiment of Militia having become vacant, in consequence of the Earl of Fauconberg's resignation of the Colonelcy, the Captains naturally expected to obtain promotion, according to the dates of their several Commissions. They looked for this course of justice with the greater security, because the Lord Lieutenant of the Riding had positively written, that if the Second Majority were continued, the appointment should most certainly go in the regiment.* Aware that it was one of the leading principles in the Militia of Great Britain to give the preference, on occasions of this sort, to persons of marked rank and property, and knowing, that the Honourable Lawrence Dundas was a case in point among themselves, some of the senior captains intimated, not only a willingness, but a wish, that

* See page 8, Letter 7, 14th of June, 1797.

the vacancy in question might be filled up by the Marquis of Carmarthen, who was then a captain in the regiment, and had discovered a predilection to the service. This offer was over-ruled by that nobleman's resignation; and it remained undetermined, whether the battalion, which was notoriously defective, should be completed to its proper establishment by incorporating the two additional companies, and the necessity for a Second Major of course be superseded—as had been the case in other Militia corps—or whether the promotion should take place, in conformity with, or in opposition to the declared wishes of the majority of the captains. Left however any informality should be attached to those gentlemen, or any un-officer-like conduct be construed from a presumed cabal, contrary to good order and discipline, your Memorialist humbly begs leave further to state, that he communicated their sentiments to Colonel Lord Dundas upon the general parade in Colchester Barracks, and received for answer, that no arrangement had taken place on that head, as Your ROYAL HIGHNESS had not yet determined with regard to the disposition of the two additional companies, commonly called Light-armed Marksmen; that your Memorialist, in order to obviate every possible misapprehension, which might arise from the looseness of conversation, did request of Major Colling, to communicate to Colonel Lord Dundas the aforesaid sentiments of some of the senior Captains, particularly those which related to Lord Carmarthen.

That your Memorialist begs leave further to state, that one month had scarcely elapsed, when, to the inexpressible surprise of the Majority of the Captains, and indeed of the Regiment in general, Mr. George Dawson, formerly Lieutenant in the QUEEN'S or Second Regiment of Foot, subsequently of the Second West York Militia, and some little time back, youngest Captain in the North York, from which corps he had retired during its March from Tynemouth Barracks in Northumberland, in June, 1796, was reintroduced, and appointed Second Major over the heads of all the Captains, &c. &c.; the senior of whom has been thirty years in the Regiment, is duly qualified according to the strict letter of the Law, and is a North Countryman by birth and connexion. That your Memorialist, well recollecting the contents of a letter,* which Your ROYAL HIGHNESS had condescended to give directions should be transmitted to him, in answer to an application on the score of Militia Rank in Brigade, and taking a comparative view of the direct assurance of the Lord Lieutenant of the Riding, with regard to the case in question, could not refrain from expressing his astonishment at hearing, that Mr. Dawson was appointed, under the positive wish and direction of Your ROYAL HIGHNESS. The degree of astonishment was not a little raised, when your Memorialist referred to the following passage, in one of Colonel Lord Dundas's letters, relative to Militia Rank,† “You have mistaken the thing; the Commander in Chief has nothing to do with your rank; the King cannot give Militia Rank.”

It is with the most unfeigned reluctance, yet with the greatest reliance upon the candour and liberality, which have so conspicuously marked the whole tenour of Your ROYAL HIGHNESS's conduct, towards every component part of the British Army, that your Memorialist has taken the liberty to submit these particulars in justification of his own conduct, and further to state, that having at all times endeavoured, to the full extent of his abilities, to acquire a due knowledge of the several duties in military life, he felt, in common with the rest of his brother Captains above alluded to, a degradation upon the most ordinary ground of capability. On every other score, and within every other provision of the legislature, they, as well as

* See page 8, Letter 6, 23d August, 1796.

† See page 8, Letter 5, 22d August, 1796.



your Memorialist, were equally competent; since the same qualification, real or fictitious, constitutes the ability of every individual, to hold a company, or to be Major in the Militia.*

That your Memorialist, feeling himself incapable of continuing to serve, not from age or bodily infirmities, but from the disheartening circumstance of imputed ignorance in the appointment above stated, did so far yield to the impulse of his own conviction, as to retire from a situation which he could no longer fill with the zeal he ought, nor with the comfort he had before experienced.†

That your Memorialist notwithstanding, most humbly begs, that Your ROYAL HIGHNESS will consider him ready and willing to come forward at all times, and under all circumstances, to afford personal service, in defence of the Constitution, with sentiments of the most unequivocal Attachment to His MAJESTY's Crown and Government: and also that Your ROYAL HIGHNESS will be graciously pleased to take the specified motives into your candid reflection, and to acquit him of any unqualified disgust to the Service,‡ which might be construed from that act;

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

CHARLES JAMES,

Late Captain North York Regiment.

October the 10th, 1797.

17, Woodstock Street, Bond Street.

* See Militia Act, 26th of the King.

† See page 9, Letter 9, August 1st, 1797.

‡ See page 10, Letter 11, 10th August, 1797.

COPIES FROM ORIGINAL LETTERS IN THE
AUTHOR'S POSSESSION,

Which are referred to in the annexed Memorial.

I.

London, 15th of March, 1795.

SIR,

I HAD the honor to receive your letter of the 9th instant ; I must own that I am rather of opinion that it will be proper for you to quit the regiment you are in at present, before you are gazetted for the North York. However, no time will be lost in taking that step, for Lord Fauconberg was with me about an hour ago, and informed me, that he means to send his recommendation of you, for a lieutenancy, to the Secretary of State immediately. I am afraid that it is impossible to comply with your idea, of being gazetted in the present instance as captain, the establishment of the regiment being complete, but there can be no jealousy upon your promotion in the regiment, as none of the subalterns are qualified.

(Signed) DUNDAS.

*Captain James,
West Middlesex Regiment,
Rochester.*

N. B. This letter requires some explanation. When I was applied to by Lord Dundas, through Captain Coffin, who had formerly been lieutenant to the company I held in the West Middlesex Regiment, while we lay at Gosport, I particularly wished his Lordship to understand, that I could not think of obtruding myself into the North York with the ultimate prospect, if not the immediate offer of a company upon the establishment, without being first convinced, that my introduction would not create the most trifling murmur or jealousy among the subalterns ; that I knew how I should feel upon an occasion of the sort, and therefore I thought it was becoming in me to consult the feelings of others ; that with respect to qualification, the same objection existed against me, which he mentioned as affecting them. Three of these gentlemen have since obtained companies upon the establishment. Nor do I think, that occasional deviations of this kind from the strict letter of the law are at all injurious to the service, except where there are double commissions.

2.

London, 18th of April, 1795.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE just received your letter of this day's date ; when I mentioned to you my expectation of two companies being added to the North York Regiment, I certainly did not inform you, that I had been particularly attentive to prevent their being upon the footing of the usual Additional Companies to Militia Regiments.

The resolution which I suggested, and which the General Meeting of the North Riding of Yorkshire have adopted, is as follows :

“ That

(7)

" That One Hundred and Sixty Men be added and incorporated with the North Riding Battalion of Militia, to enable the Regiment to form two companies of Light Armed Marksmen to be attached to the Regiment."

You may perhaps think this is a distinction without a difference, but I will easily explain to you, when we meet, the necessity of framing the resolution in the above Terms; the two Captains who are added to the Regiment on this occasion will certainly come in as youngest, but as vacancies happen, those who come in or are promoted as Captains will always come in as youngest, and whoever are the two Junior Captains at the Peace will be reduced. Lord Fauconberg has just now been with me and desires me to inform you, that he will immediately recommend you for a company, and I will endeavour to have you in next Saturday's Gazette. The Duke of York has put me under the directions of Colonel Perrin to get instructions respecting the clothing, arms, accoutrements, exercise and manœuvres of this new species of Soldier; the sooner you can come to Town, the better, because I wish we may study together.

(Signed) DUNDAS.

Captain James,
West Middlesex Regiment,
Bromley.

3.

Arlington Street, 18th May, 1795.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE this moment the honour to receive your letter of yesterday, you may make yourself perfectly easy respecting my having taken unbrage at what you say may have appeared inconsistency on your part—So much the contrary, that I have delayed for near a month giving in the names of the Officers, in hopes, that something might turn out to obviate your difficulty and to prevent Captain Dawson being Senior to you, if you should at last accept the first of the two additional Companies, until a vacancy happened on the Establishment of the Regiment. An idea came into my mind while I was at Brighton, that as the Regiment by the Augmentation will consist of 910 Rank and File, we had a right to ask for an additional Major, and my son is willing to accept that rank without a Company. I have wrote to Lord Fauconberg upon the subject. If he approves this plan and the King consents to the additional Major, there will be a company upon the Establishment vacant for you, so that Dawson will come in the youngest Captain.

(Signed) DUNDAS.

Captain James,
West Middlesex Regiment,
Lydd Camp, Romney.

4.

London, Thursday Morning 7 o'Clock, 26th of May, 1795.

DEAR SIR,

I WAS detained in Town yesterday, which occasioned my receiving your letter of the 24th, by my last you will perceive that you are a senior Captain to Dawson in the North York—You are perfectly welcome to Ten days or a Fortnights leave, at the same time the sooner you join, the better.

(Signed) DUNDAS.

Captain James,
West-Middlesex Regiment,
Post Office, Rochester.

5.

Arlington Street, 22d of August, 1796.

DEAR JAMES,

YOU have mistaken the thing*—The Commander in Chief has nothing to do with your rank; The King cannot give Militia Rank—The alteration we wish must be done by Act of Parliament—I shall see you to-morrow.

(Signed) DUNDAS.

*Captain James,
North York,
Colchester Barracks.*

6.

Horse Guards, August 23d, 1796.

SIR,

IN answer to your Memorial, I am commanded by F. M. The Duke of York to request, that you will be pleased to state your Case through the commanding officer of the North York Militia to the Lord Lieutenant of the County of York; as His Royal Highness does not interfere in the Rank and Promotion of officers of the Militia.

(Signed) ROBERT BROWNRIGG.

*Captain James,
North York Militia,
Colchester Barracks.*

7.

Cheltenham, 14th of June, 1797.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHOULD immediately have acknowledged your very kind attention to me in your address dated the 7th instant, if I had not been engaged in important business with gentlemen from Ireland.

I shall ever regret being from my ill-state of health and a reason not to be overcome, in which you will agree when I have an opportunity of conversing with you, reduced to the necessity of resigning the command of the North York Militia. At the same time, I reflect with satisfaction, that my conduct has met with the approval of the Officers and the good will of the Men.

The Lieutenancy of the Riding is too important a Trust to relinquish; I shall be happy in that station to prove my gratitude to the Regiment.

The Request you name to me of the three Elder Captains, *that if Promotion takes place, it should go in the Corps, I shall strictly observe.*

Conscious of your good humour and readiness tell my old friend Captain Grenside that I have withheld my answer to his friendly address from motives that I trust in his opinion will prove becoming and judicious; as early as I am at liberty he shall hear from me. The Marquis of Carmarthen has every reason to be proud in the deference shewn him by the three Elder Captains.

I have the pleasure to be, with
great esteem, your faithful and sincere friend,
(Signed) FAUCONBERG.

*Captain James, N. Y. M.
Barracks, Colchester.*

* N. B. The idea of my being entitled to Brigade rank in the Militia did not originate with myself.

Colchester

8.

Colchester Barracks, August the 1st, 1797.

MY LORD,

BEFORE I enter into the immediate purport of this letter, allow me to express my due acknowledgments for the great politeness which I experienced at your hands when you first did me the honour to offer me a Company in the North York Regiment.

From some particular circumstances which have occurred, especially from one, I feel it incumbent on me to listen so far to my feelings as to request that you will have the goodness to apply to H. R. H. F. M. The Duke of York for two months leave of absence that I may be enabled to get into some other military situation, should the War continue. General Sir William Howe will not, I trust, throw any obstacle in the way of this application, as I make it with the greatest deference through his medium.

I beg leave to add, that I have been Captain of a Company since the year 1788, and that I have uniformly attended to the duties of that situation during the present War. In quitting my appointment, should I succeed to some other during the above mentioned period, I shall feel much regret, nor shall I be insensible to your former attention and partiality in my behalf.

(Signed) CHARLES JAMES,
Captain N. Y. Regiment.

Right Honourable
Colonel Lord Dundas,
Barracks, Colchester.

9.

Wivenhoe, 2d of August, 1797.

MY DEAR LORD,

I RETURN Captain James's letter, and am sorry to add his application therein stated for two months leave of absence, does not meet my approbation, when the presence of every officer is so necessary with their respective Corps; and therefore hope he will not push his requisition further.

I am not at liberty to enter into a discussion upon his reasons for making the request, as he has not sufficiently explained them; but were I allowed to conjecture, it would seem to me he grounds his application upon the promotion of Mr. George Dawson to your Second Majority; in that case I should say, the successions in the Militia being totally dissimilar to those in the Army, there is no foundation for grievance in that transaction.

(Signed) WM. HOWE.

Colonel

The Right Honourable Lord Dundas.

10.

Colchester Barracks, 3d of August, 1797.

MY LORD,

I TAKE the liberty to request you will have the goodness to inform me upon what specific conditions I can obtain a few days leave of absence? It is necessary to add, that when I quitted the West Middlesex Regiment, my resignation was dated posterior to my departure. I have received subsistence up to the 25th instant, and it is my intention to relinquish my present situation on that day. I presume Sir William Howe will not

not object to my availing myself of the intermediate period for the purposes already stated in a former application. I shall then, for my own satisfaction as well as for your Lordship's government, take the regular mode of quitting a Militia Regiment.

I repeat my regret at being driven to this necessity, and I hope you will do me the honour to believe, that nothing but a consciousness of acting as I ought, would have induced me to give so much trouble on the occasion.

(Signed) CHARLES JAMES.

Captain N. Y. Regiment.

Right Honourable
Colonel Lord Dundas,
Barracks, Colchester.

N. B. On my persisting in my original resolution, I was informed by Colonel Lord Dundas, that leave of absence might be obtained for me, (but by no means to the extent I had asked,) *provided* I gave in my resignation previous to my departure from Barracks. To this strange condition I most readily agreed, and I further observed, that as my request for Two Months leave of absence went merely to the acquisition of sufficient time to enable me to get into some other Regiment, and by that means not to have a break in my service during the war, I would most cheerfully cease to receive subsistence, or to be borne upon the establishment in a pecuniary light, from the moment I should leave the Barrack Gate; but as I was determined to quit the North York, that I should hope Ten or Fourteen days might be granted, especially as the leaves of other officers were at that very time prolonged. I expressed considerable surprize at the stated condition; observing, that as my retirement from the regiment was *my own sole Act and Deed*, there could be little doubt of my resigning at the expiration of my leave. This circumstance induced me to write the foregoing letter; to which I received various oral explanations that finally determined me to wait upon Sir William Howe at Wivenhoe, with my Resignation ready written. It would be superfluous to make any further comment upon the extraordinary terms which were still annexed to the indulgence I obtained from that Gentleman. His behaviour however was perfectly polite, and did not appear to deviate from that openness of character which has generally marked his progress through life; nevertheless, the whole business, taken together, was mysterious.

Copy of a Letter written to Henry Howard, Esq. Captain in the First West York Militia, on the supposed continuance of Hostilities, and my consequent readiness to serve.

August the 10th, 1797.
17, Woodstock Street, Bond Street.

II.

SIR,

A VERY recent occurrence, in which I am confident you will perfectly agree with me that some disrespect and inattention have been shewn to my brother captains and to myself, having reduced me to the necessity of quitting the North York Regiment, I know no Corps to which I feel more ambitious of being attached than to the First West York.

The peculiar circumstances which have induced me to relinquish my situation at Colchester, grow entirely out of my own feelings; and when I shall have made you acquainted with the singular one by which almost every other captain in the Regiment is sensibly hurt, in common with myself, I make no doubt but you will allow the propriety of my resignation.

When

When I was invited into the North York by Lord Dundas, I stood eldest Captain but one of the West Middlesex Militia. You may recollect to have seen me at Whitly Camp in Northumberland, which place I left in 1795 to join the Earl of Moira at Southampton, and to which I returned again in the latter part of the same year, when that Nobleman resigned.

I shall now briefly state the particular transaction which has taken place, together with the introduction of a gentleman to be second Major who was my Junior, and who left the Regiment in 1796 during our march to Colchester Barracks.

Lord Dundas having obtained the command of the Regiment in the room of the Earl of Fauconberg, and his son Mr. L. Dundas being appointed Lieutenant Colonel, *with the previous consent of Major Colling*, the second Majority became vacant of course. On account of the great deficiency in the Battalion, it was first suggested, that the Sharp Shooters or Light Armed Marksmen, who were additional levies, should be drafted into the old Establishment, and the necessity for a Second Major be consequently obviated. This measure could have been adopted with the greater facility, since the Resignations which occurred at the time had not left one Supernumerary officer to be provided for. The saving which, in this case, must have accrued to the Publick, and the great advantages which would necessarily follow to the Regiment at large, were confessedly allowed on all sides, and for some time had weight with Lord Dundas. Contrary, however, to all expectation, we were last week surprized by the sudden nomination of Mr. George Dawson, who was formerly in the Second West York, and had resigned in ours while youngest Captain, as above stated. Leaving the other captains to feel and act for themselves, I instantly made up my own mind, and requested leave of absence for the purpose of attaching myself to some other Militia Corps or of entering into the Regulars, should the War continue. This indulgence was opposed by Lord Dundas and Sir William Howe, both assuring me, that the appointment of Mr. Dawson could not be considered as a grievance. My answer uniformly went to say, that as my brother captains and myself were as much entitled to be nominated to the second Majority, in virtue of the Militia Act, as they could be to remain Captains of Companies, I was reduced to the necessity of inferring, that neither they nor myself were competent to the duties of the former situation; that I had been Captain of a Company during nine Years, and had constantly attended to the Service through the whole of the present War: that I felt uncomfortable, and would not continue to serve with a perpetual impression of presumed inability about me. In a personal interview which I finally had with Sir William Howe, I repeated the same language, and after a correspondence of four days, I obtained leave of absence until the 25th of August, on which day I had previously dated my resignation. Although it is confidently believed, that I shall alter my present purpose, and return before the expiration of that period, I still feel myself so well grounded in my original resolution, that I have taken the liberty to ask whether an application to His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, (whose political principles I value) for any vacant appointment in the First West York to which he might think me adequate, would be attended with success?

(Signed) CHARLES JAMES.
Captain N. Y. Regiment.

Henry Howard, Esq.
Captain First West York,
Portsmouth.

Portsmouth

Porismouth, August 11th, 1797.

DEAR SIR,

I RECEIVED your communication this morning, and I lose no time in stating to you freely what occurs to me on the subject. The Duke of Norfolk left this place on the 1st, and is now, I believe, either at Hereford or on his journey into Cumberland. I understand (but never having interfered in these matters cannot be certain of it) that application has been made for the vacancy in our Regiment. Independent of this, I know from a circumstance that has occurred, that the Duke considers it a matter of some delicacy between Militia Regiments to receive an Officer from one Corps into another, and in this case, living as he does in habits of intimacy both with Lord Dundas, and his brother-in-law Lord Fitzwilliam, I really conceive he would be particularly anxious not to engage in any thing that might be construed into interference, or create a rivalry between the two Regiments. Besides this, it is nearly what has happened in our Regiment. Sir Thomas Gascoigne was junior captain to Lord Scarbrough, Mr. Spencer Stanhope, and I believe Captain Dixon; and Major Milner, whom the Duke respects as much as any one, was then Major of the Regiment. Sir Thomas was, however, appointed Lieutenant Colonel. Mr. Stanhope resigned, and made a noise about it, went, I believe, to the King, but the Duke insisted on his own right to follow his own judgment and nominate for Field Officers or other commissions whomsoever, having a legal qualification, he thought the most proper for the station, and thus the matter ended. You will agree with me that what you have stated would not, therefore, be a plea I could make use of with the Duke. But to bring it to what relates to myself, and I believe you are nearly in the same predicament; having only a fictitious qualification for Yorkshire, I have not the least idea that I could at any time under that circumstance, expect to be appointed Field Officer to any Militia Regiment of that County; the Duke, I am confident, would not name me on that account; and were I through his partiality so appointed, I should think it right, for his sake, to refuse it. Such is really my opinion, and I do not see why you should take it up or resign on the appointment of Mr. Dawson.

(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

Captain James,
North York Regiment,
17, Woodstock Street, Bond Street.

Newburgh, 19th of August, 1797^{}.*

DEAR SIR,

YOUR two letters of the 6th and 17th instant, I have perused with pleasure and regret; the former on account of the handsome and satisfactory manner in which you represent my conduct: the latter, that you should have experienced treatment of a Regimental nature, to induce you to withdraw your services from the North York Militia.

The pleasing experience I have had of your military knowledge, the readiness you did at all times shew in a steady exertion of your duty, and your cheerfulness in society render your resignation, in my opinion, a very serious loss to the officers and men.

I beg leave to say that the appointment of the Second Major was the present

^{*} Received at Dover on the 25th of August.

Colonel's sole AE; that I could not interfere, Mr. Dawson having served in the Regiment, and when named to the Duke of York approved.

If the war continues, fortunate will be the Regiment that you attach yourself to; my best wishes must ever attend you.

(Signed) FAUCONBERG.

Captain James.
Dover, Kent,

14.

Dover, August 25th, 1797.

MY LORD,

THE leave of absence which I received from General Sir William Howe expiring this day, and my resignation of the company I lately commanded in the North Yorkshire Militia taking place in conformity to the conditions annexed to your application for that leave, I adopt the earliest moment to acquaint your Lordship, that I feel confirmed in the motives which induced me to take that step, and that I shall presume accordingly upon the regular notification of the same to the Lord Lieutenant of the Riding.

I beg leave again to express my regret at having been forced to this necessity, and with the sincerest wish, that every officer and soldier in the North York may be comfortable and happy, I have the honour to be

(Signed) CHARLES JAMES,
Late Captain N. Y. Regiment.

Right Honourable
Colonel Lord Dundas, N. Y. Regiment,
Barracks, Colchester.

15.

Dover, August 25th, 1797.

SIR,

THE great candour and politeness which I experienced at your hands when I had the honor to be received at Wivenhoe on the score of my Resignation, entitle you to every expression of acknowledgment that a due sense of them can offer. My leave of absence expiring this day, I make use of the opportunity to express my regret at having been forced to withdraw myself from the service of the Country, when perhaps the exertions of the most insignificant individual may be desirable.

I take the liberty to add, that among other circumstances which constitute that regret, the particular one of losing the advantages to be derived from serving under you (should hostilities continue and the frequent threats of the enemy at last be realized) will not be the least weighty.

I rely much upon your affability and goodness to pardon the freedom of this letter; and in full confidence, that you will attribute the same to an anxiety to appear correct in your eyes, I have the honour to be

(Signed) CHARLES JAMES,
Late Captain N. Y. Regiment.

Gen. Sir William Howe, K. B.
Head Quarters,
Colchester.

Woodstock

16.

Woodstock Street, 10th of October, 1797.

MY LORD,

AS there at present appears little prospect of a termination of hostilities with France, and it consequently becomes a duty in every man who has received the public pay of the Country to remain steadfast in its defence, I feel awkward under the circumstances which occasioned my late resignation in the North York Regiment of Militia.

It is too much the practice of the times, my Lord, to attribute improper motives to the best disposed in matters of this sort. Conscious that I have neither been irregular nor informal, yet sensible at the same time that an unfavourable impression might attach itself to the mind of his ROYAL HIGHNESS the DUKE of YORK, who has so deservedly conciliated the good will and affection of the Army, I have judged it expedient and necessary to send in a Memorial in justification of my conduct.

Wishing to adhere as close as possible to the open path which I pursued previous to my departure from Barracks, I think it right, in affording this communication to say, that I have been obliged to have recourse to some written Documents to prove the propriety of my motives on that occasion. These vouchers will most probably be transmitted to your Lordship in due time, and I shall be ready, with the respect and deference, that I owe to your situation, to meet any explanation or enquiry which may be thought requisite from the subject matter of the Memorial.

(Signed) CHARLES JAMES,
Late Captain N. Y. Regiment.

Right Honourable
Colonel Lord Dundas,
North York Regiment,
Colchester.

17.

Colchester, 11th of October, 1797.

SIR,

I HAVE just now received your letter of yesterday, in which you say, "you have judged it expedient and necessary to send a Memorial to the DUKE of YORK, in justification of your conduct." If I am at all implicated in the business, you may be well assured that I shall be, all times, ready to meet any explanation or enquiry upon the subject.

(Signed) DUNDAS.

Charles James, Esq.
17, Woodstock Street, Bond Street.
London.

18.

17, Woodstock Street, 10th of October, 1797.

SIR,

I SHALL feel myself particularly obliged by your early attention to the annexed Memorial, which you will have the goodness to lay before His Royal Highness Field Marshal the DUKE of YORK, whenever you may think him sufficiently at leisure to look into the subject matter. Its size, which has been insensibly increased, by the variety of documents that I have thought necessary to submit in confirmation of the facts

facts therein stated, will not, I am confident, be any material obstacle to that liberal reception, of which His Royal Highness's mind is so conspicuously capable. I wish to acquit myself of the most slender imputation of impropriety in quitting the service at this critical juncture, and I make no doubt but you will readily account for my anxiety on that head, having to the best of my ability uniformly endeavoured to correspond with the duties it imposes.

(Signed) CHARLES JAMES,

Late Capt. North York Regt.

Colonel Brownrigg,

Secretary to F. M. the Duke of York, &c.

Horse-Guards, Whitehall.

19.

Horse Guards, 13th of October, 1797.

SIR,

HAVING laid before the DUKE OF YORK your Memorial of the 10th instant, I am commanded to acquaint you, that your explanation of the motives which induced you to quit the North York Regiment, is perfectly satisfactory to His ROYAL HIGHNESS, who has not the smallest doubt of your zeal, and your disposition to prove it.

(Signed) ROBERT BROWNRIGG.

Charles James, Esq.

17, Woodstock Street, Bond Street.

20.

St. James's Place, December 23d, 1797.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to send back to you the Copies of the Correspondence, which you wished I should see. The perusal of those documents has only confirmed the presumption I should otherwise have entertained; that the motives of your conduct had been consonant to the strictest principles of zeal and honour.

(Signed) MOIRA.

Charles James, Esq.

17, Woodstock Street, Bond Street.

21.

Donington, January the 11th, 1798.

SIR,

YOUR proposed application to the DUKE OF YORK, marks in the most unequivocal manner your zeal, and cannot fail of meeting that construction from the elevated mind of His Royal Highness.

(Signed) MOIRA.

Charles James, Esq.

17, Woodstock Street, Bond Street.

TO

TO
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS FIELD MARSHAL
THE
DUKE OF YORK,
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES,
&c. &c. &c.

THE MEMORIAL
*Of the undersigned CHARLES JAMES, late Captain of the North York
Militia,*

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH;

THAT without any other pretensions to notice than those of a real attachment to the Constitution and Government of the Country and a warm zeal for the Service, Your Memorialist humbly presumes to approach Your Royal Highness, and to state:

That being anxious to obtain Footing in the British Army, and within the specified limits of Your Royal Highness's salutary Regulations gradually to obtain promotion, He takes the liberty to solicit an Ensigncy for that purpose.

Your Memorialist begs leave further to state, that as the exertions of every individual may be of use at this critical juncture, it is his intention to attach himself to some Regiment in this or the Sister Kingdom during the intermediate period which he must necessarily fill in the above capacity of subaltern, unless your Royal Highness should judge fit to dispose of his services in some other way.

And Your Memorialist will ever pray.

20th of January, 1798.
37, Woodstock St. Bond St.

CHARLES JAMES.
Late Captain North York Militia.

Horse Guards, 23d January, 1798

SIR,

I HAVE laid the Memorial enclosed in your letter of the 20th instant before Field Marshal the Duke of York, and am commanded to acquaint you, that it is not in His Royal Highness's power to comply with your request to have an Ensigncy in the Line.

(Signed)

R. BROWNRIGG

*Charles James, Esq.
Late Captain N. Y. Militia.
37, Woodstock Street, Bond Street.*

